Communications for SAR Dog Handlers

Bob Calkins

& K9 Ruger

Kitsap County Search Dogs

Can you hear us now?
If you could, would it matter?

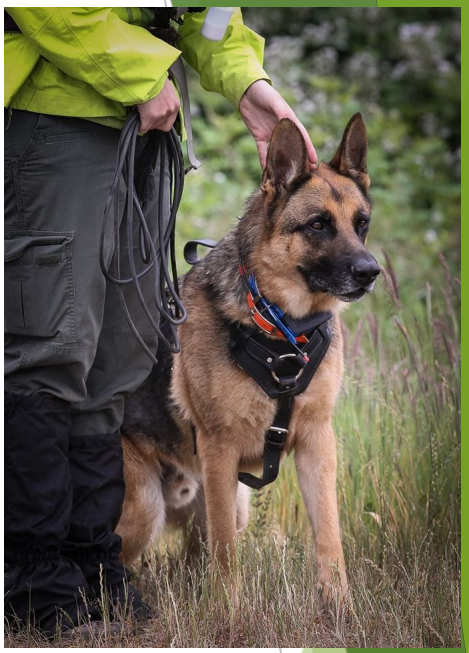
- Voice Check
- Alert
- Trained Indication
- Trained Final Response
- PLS
- Toy Drive
- Death Code
- Re-find
- Scent Article
- Trailing Dog
- Air Scent Dog
- Cleared the area

And what’s this about a Party?!

Types of Search Dogs

- Air Scent Dog
  - Testing Standard: Find two humans in 80 acres in two hours.
  - Normally used in wilderness.
- Trailing Dog
  - Find a specific human by using a scent article and following their trail.
  - Testing Standards: 4 – 24 hour old trail, one mile, variable surface, six turns.
  - Usually in urban areas, frequently dementia patients.
- Cadaver Dogs
  - Large Source. Testing Standard: 5lbs of human remains.
  - Forensic Level. Testing Standard: 1cc of blood.

What breed of dog?



- Amost all breeds can use their nose.
- SAR dogs need to be smart and sturdy.
- Key element is toy drive.
  - They have to really want the toy.
- Mixed breeds do fine.
- *Breaking News: The human is the harder half of the team to train.*

Air Scent Dogs

- Work off lead and possibly out of sight of handler.
- Dog is team leader. Handler may guide, but has to know when to follow.
- Handler watches for change of behavior.
  - Dog locates subject.
  - Returns to handler and gives Trained Final Response.
  - Leads handler back to subject (re-find).
- *Party for the Dog!!*

Air Scent Dogs

- Used to “clear an area.”
  - Indicate that no one is there.
  - IC can devote resources elsewhere.
  - Ex., before we send Mountain Rescue into avalanche country, let’s make sure the person didn’t have a heart attack in the campground.
- May use “voice checks.”
  - Their ears are better than ours, too
    - More sensitive
    - More directional.

Trailing Dogs

- Given a scent article from the subject.
  - Dog handlers prefer to gather themselves.
- Ideally starts from a known point (PLS.)
  - Can start blind and try to find the trail.
  - Can be used to develop containment
- Works on lead.
- Follows freshest trail.
  - May shortcut if person looped.
  - May air scent when close.
- Finds subject – handler is 15’ away

Trailing Dogs

- Used to “get a direction.”
  - Other teams are then deployed well in front.
- May “work the corners.”
  - Concrete is tough.
- Scent may blow up against curbs, fences or buildings.
- Mentally harder on the dog than air scent.

Cadaver Dogs

There are now two types of cadaver dogs

- Large Source
- Forensic

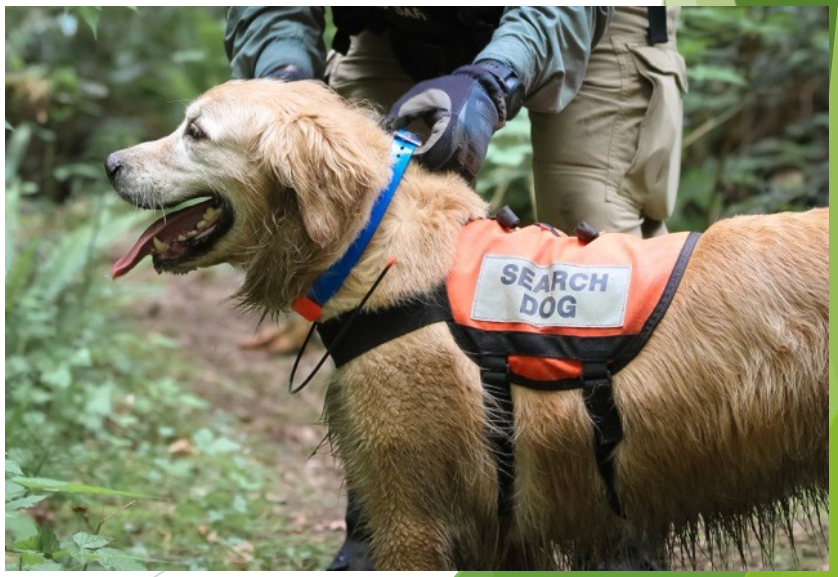
- May locate small portions of disarticulated remains.
- Slows down and searches small areas thoroughly.
- Gives trained Final Response at source.
  - Is told “show me” and noses strongest point.
  - Entire bodies may overwhelm dog’s nose.
- *Party for the Dog!*
- *(<u>Nooo</u> puppy kisses.)*

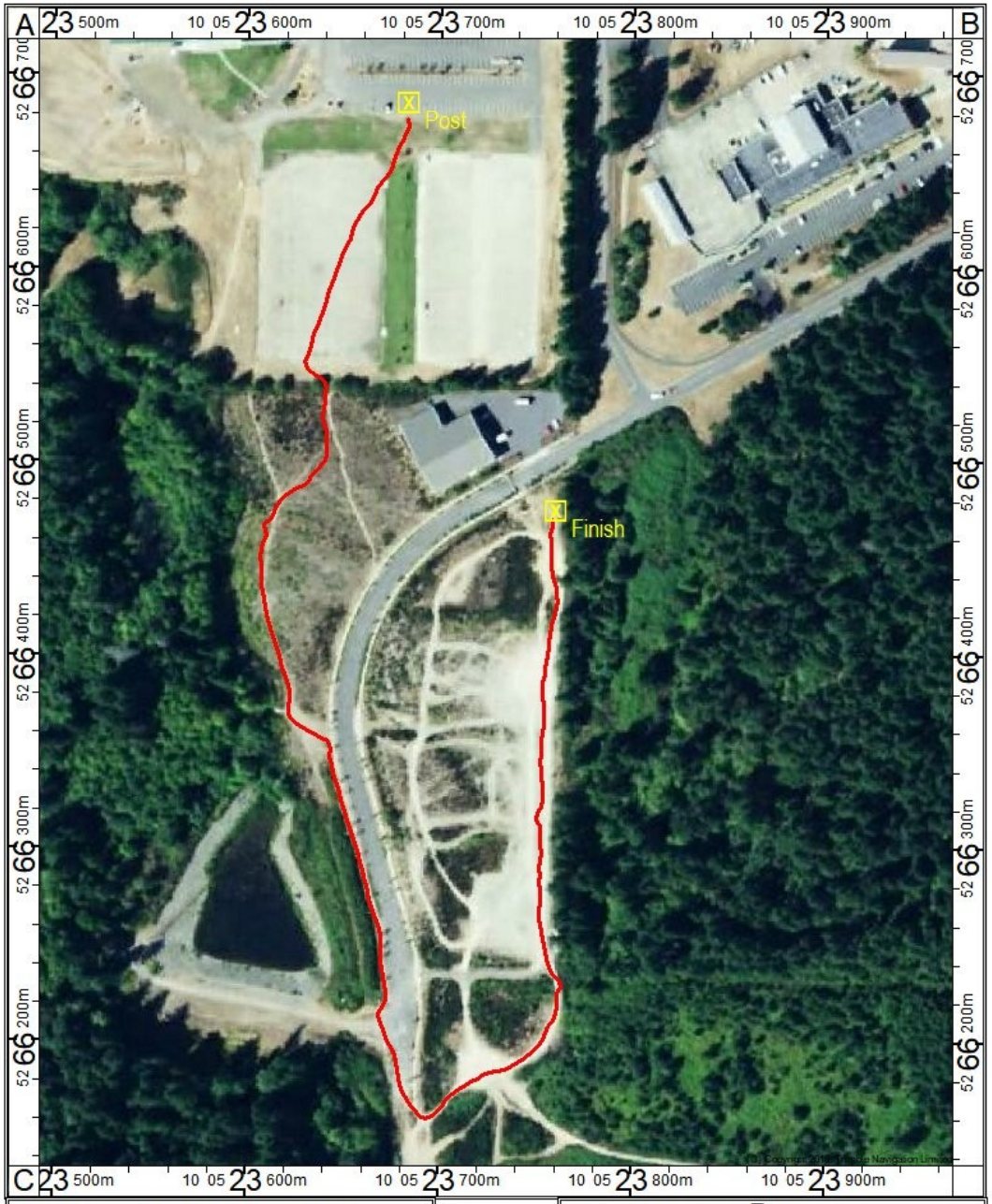
Death Codes

- Specific Code
  - “We have a one-three.”
  - Family or media will know something’s up.
- Blending Code
  - “We just bumped into Jim Gideon.”
    - Jim is long-deceased member of SAR.
  - “We just bumped into (Insert OL’s Name).”
- Critical issue is tone of voice, not words.
- No codes for injured subjects.
  - *Plain English.*
  - *Forget media, family and HIPPA.*

Location Reporting

- GPS
  - WGS 84
  - UTM Coordinates
  - Other systems possible
- X – Y System
  - Need to have same map & ruler
- Plain English
  - “I’m down by the spoom.”
  - Which is “woods” with the map upside down.
- Urban – Cross streets or addresses.



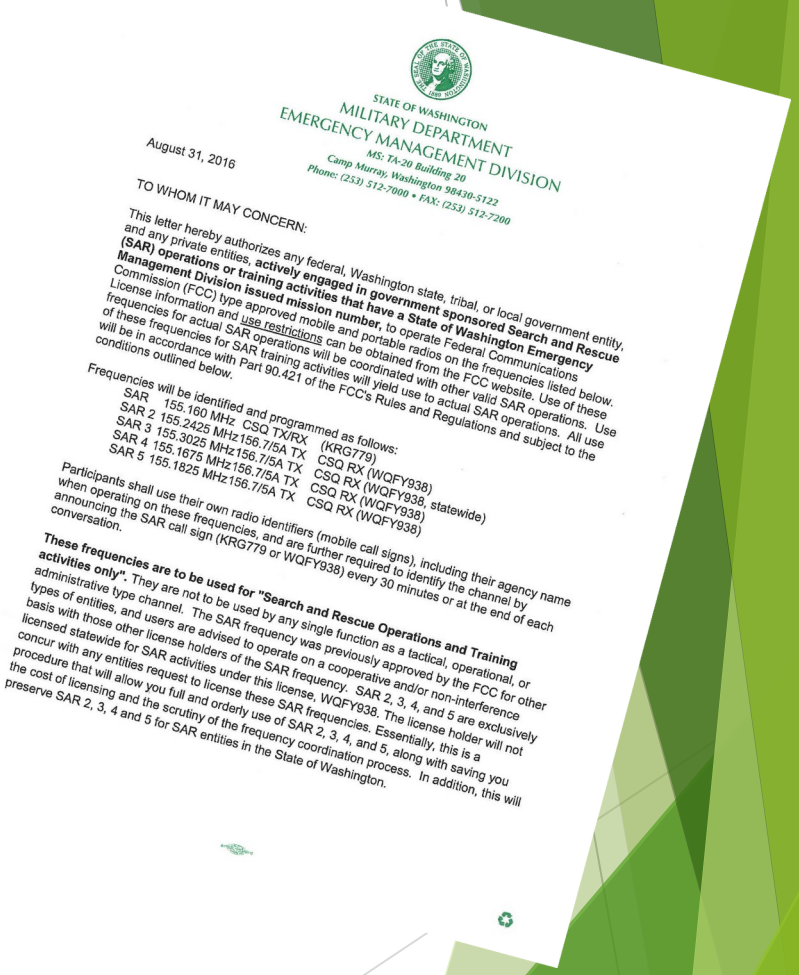


Map Center: 10 0523729 E, 5266427 N
Scale 1:2,500 Datum: WGS84
Declination: 15.63° E

Kitsap County Search Dogs
190406 Pendergast - "Bob 4 Amy"
Mission # 19T-1015-BB

Comms Platforms

- Public Safety Frequencies
  - OSCCR
  - LERN
  - Specific Team Licensing and Frequencies.
- State Military Department
  - Five frequencies for use by SAR teams when under a mission number.
- Amateur Radio
  - Use varies by groups.
- Family Radios
  - Secondary platform for training.
- Callsigns typically “Dog ##.”
  - We leave “K9 ##” to police.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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August 31, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter hereby authorizes any federal, Washington state, tribal, or local government entity, and any private entities, **actively engaged in government sponsored Search and Rescue (SAR) operations or training activities that have a State of Washington Emergency Management Division issued mission number,** to operate Federal Communications Commission (FCC) type approved mobile and portable radios on the frequencies listed below. License information and use restrictions can be obtained from the FCC website. Use of these frequencies for actual SAR operations will be coordinated with other valid SAR operations. All use of these frequencies for SAR training activities will yield use to actual SAR operations. All use will be in accordance with Part 90.421 of the FCC's Rules and Regulations and subject to the conditions outlined below.

Frequencies will be identified and programmed as follows:

SAR	155.160 MHz	CSQ TX/RX	(KRG779)
SAR 2	155.2425 MHz	156.7/5A TX	CSQ RX (WQFY938)
SAR 3	155.3025 MHz	156.7/5A TX	CSQ RX (WQFY938, statewide)
SAR 4	155.1675 MHz	156.7/5A TX	CSQ RX (WQFY938)
SAR 5	155.1825 MHz	156.7/5A TX	CSQ RX (WQFY938)

Participants shall use their own radio identifiers (mobile call signs), including their agency name when operating on these frequencies, and are further required to identify the channel by announcing the SAR call sign (KRG779 or WQFY938) every 30 minutes or at the end of each conversation.

These frequencies are to be used for "Search and Rescue Operations and Training activities only". They are not to be used by any single function as a tactical, operational, or administrative type channel. The SAR frequency was previously approved by the FCC for other types of entities, and users are advised to operate on a cooperative and/or non-interference basis with those other license holders of the SAR frequency. SAR 2, 3, 4, and 5 are exclusively licensed statewide for SAR activities under this license, WQFY938. The license holder will not concur with any entities request to license these SAR frequencies. Essentially, this is a procedure that will allow you full and orderly use of SAR 2, 3, 4, and 5, along with saving you the cost of licensing and the scrutiny of the frequency coordination process. In addition, this will preserve SAR 2, 3, 4 and 5 for SAR entities in the State of Washington.

Requesting Search Dogs

- Request dog by function needed.
  - Air Scent – Typically Wilderness
  - Trailing- Typically Suburban or Urban
  - Large Source Human Remains Detection (Cadaver)
  - Forensic HRD (Cadaver – Crime Scenes)
- Other functions.
  - Rubble – Collapsed or burned structures.
  - Avalanche.
  - Water Search – Shoreline or from a boat.
- *Bloodhound is a breed, not a type of search dog.*

Questions?

Time for Demonstrations!